

The identity of *Bossiaea strigillosa* Benth. (Fabaceae: Tribe *Bossiaeeae*)

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Abstract

Bossiaea strigillosa Benth. is a synonym of *Pultenaea rotundifolia* (Turcz.) Benth. A lectotype is selected for *B. strigillosa*.

Bentham (1864) based his description of *Bossiaea strigillosa* on a specimen collected in Western Australia by James Drummond, which he cited in the protologue as 'Drummond 5th coll.?, no. 81'. Bentham's description is as follows:

'Branches divaricate, rigid, rather slender, clothed when young, as well as the under side of the leaves, with short rigid almost appressed hairs. Leaves opposite, broadly obovate-orbicular, with a recurved point, mostly about 2 lines long and broad, very rigid, with recurved margins, obtuse at the base, glabrous and veined above. Stipules subulate, recurved. Pedicels short. Bracteoles lanceolate-subulate. Calyx pubescent: the upper lobes large and rounded, the lower ones small and narrow.'

The application of the name *B. strigillosa* has long been uncertain and, to my knowledge, apart from the type, only one specimen (*C.A. Gardner 13751* from near the Jerdacuttup River) was ever referred to the species, and incorrectly as it transpires. In view of the perception that the taxon was rare, several attempts were made in recent decades to locate material in the field of a species of *Bossiaea* with opposite leaves that matched Bentham's description. This task was not made easier by the absence of a precise locality for the Drummond collection, and the uncertainty surrounding the set of collections of which Drummond's type formed a part. In the protologue, Bentham queried whether or not the type of *B. strigillosa* belonged to Drummond's 5th collection. This uncertainty is justified, and remains, because one of the syntypes of *Bossiaea concinna* Benth. is cited as Drummond 5th coll. n 81. Clearly one of these specimens either has been incorrectly attributed to Drummond's 5th collection, or the number 81 is incorrect.

In deciding the generic placement of this taxon, Bentham stated 'I have seen neither full-blown flowers nor fruit, but the petals and stamens in the young bud, and the remains of fruiting pedicels, are sufficient to indicate the genus'. Unfortunately, neither the remains of Bentham's floral dissection, nor the remains of the fruiting pedicel are associated any longer with the type material in K and the specimen is now completely sterile. I have not succeeded in locating another sheet of this Drummond collection in any other herbarium. The absence of any flowers on the type makes confirmation of the generic placement of the species difficult, but I am of the opinion that for some reason Bentham erred in referring Drummond's specimen to *Bossiaea*.

Vegetatively the type of *B. strigillosa* resembles *Pultenaea rotundifolia* (Turcz.) Benth. closely in leaf shape, size and texture, the nature of the stipules, and in indumentum, although the indumentum in the type of *B. strigillosa* is slightly denser and the hairs are more spreading. I believe that *Bossiaea strigillosa* is in fact referable to *Pultenaea* and it is treated here as a synonym of *Pultenaea rotundifolia* (Turcz.) Benth. *Pultenaea rotundifolia* is relatively common in some parts of the southern Eyre Botanical District.

Pultenaea rotundifolia (Turcz.) Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 2: 121 (1864). *Enchilus rotundifolius* Turcz., Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou 26: 277 (1853). *Type*: Western Australia, J. Drummond, 5th coll. No. 78. (isotype: K)

Bossiaea strigillosa Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 2: 157 (1864), *synon. nov.* *Type*: Western Australia, J. Drummond, '5th Coll.?, n.81'. (lectotype: K, *lic designatus*)

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Reference

Bentham, G. (1864) *Flora Australiensis*, Vol. 2, Lovell Reeve & Co., London